

# Senate File 311 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 311  
BY SCHULTZ

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to training requirements for using a dog for  
2 deer blood tracking.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 481A.56A, Code 2021, is amended to read  
2 as follows:

3 **481A.56A Retrieval of wounded deer by leashed dogs.**

4 A person having a valid hunting license and a valid deer  
5 hunting license who has wounded a deer while hunting may use  
6 a dog to track and retrieve the wounded deer. ~~A dog being  
7 used for tracking a wounded deer and a person using a dog for  
8 tracking a wounded deer shall both be trained in deer blood  
9 tracking.~~ Any person using a dog for tracking wounded deer  
10 must maintain physical control of the dog at all times during  
11 the search by means of a maximum fifty-foot lead attached to  
12 the dog's collar or harness. The person may dispatch the deer  
13 using a legal method of take authorized by the person's deer  
14 hunting license. A person shall not use that method of take  
15 to hunt, wound, or kill any animal other than the deer that  
16 the hunter is tracking, except in self-defense. Using a dog  
17 to track a wounded deer on private property is permissible at  
18 any hour with consent of the property owner. A person using a  
19 dog to track a wounded deer outside of legal deer hunting hours  
20 shall not be in possession of a firearm or archery device.  
21 The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) to  
22 implement [this section](#).

23

EXPLANATION

24 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
25 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

26 This bill relates to training requirements for using a dog  
27 for deer blood tracking. Current law requires that a dog being  
28 used for tracking a wounded deer and a person using a dog for  
29 tracking a wounded deer both be trained in deer blood tracking.  
30 The bill strikes that requirement.